9. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernized and upgraded at many depots.

10. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

11. Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

12. Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

13. Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

14. Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

15. Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.

16. Refresher courses are regularly organized at specified intervals.

17. Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

18. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Rail Link between India and Bagladesh

1094. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to open a rail link between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether resumption of this rail transhipment would provide India

the transit rights to North-Eastern States through Bangladesh and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There are already four Railway links operational between India and Bangladesh as under:—

(i) Gedo (India) - Darsana (Bangladesh) - Broad Gauge.

(ii) Singhabad (India) - Rohanpur (Bangladesh) - Broad Gauge.

(iii) Radhikapur (India) - Birol (Bangladesh) - Meter Gauge.

(iv) Mahisasan (India) - Shahbazpur (Bangladesh) - Meter Gauge.

A fifth Railway link namely Petrapole (India) Benapole (Bangladesh) Broad Gauge, is likely to be opened very shortly.

In addition to the above, India and Bangladesh have agreed in principle to open/establish one more rail link between Akhaura and Agartala.

(c) The Government of India have made repeated proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for transit facilities to the North-Eastern States, but the same has not been agreed to till date.

Suspension of Railway employees after Gaisal collision

†1095. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railway employees were suspended immediately after the collision of two passenger trains near Gaisal railway station;

(b) if so, the names and designations of such employees;

(c) whether Government have since received a complete report of the inquiry conducted to ascertain the reasons for this accident;

(d) if not, whether Government have reinstated some suspended employees; and

(e) if so, the names and designations of such employees?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.